

Amended Claims

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18. (Amended) An apparatus for generating a sprite from at least an initial input image, comprising:

a memory for storing input image data;

motion estimation means operatively associated with said memory for providing an initial estimate of motion parameter data for providing a registration between the sprite and the initial input image based on motion parameter data of at least two input images that precede the initial input image; and

sprite generation means for generating a sprite from at least an initial input image.

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19. (Amended) An apparatus for generating a sprite from a plurality of input images, comprising:

shot detection means for performing shot detection on the input images to provide a group of successive images that share a common scene; and

sprite generation means for forming the sprite from said group of successive images.

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21. (Amended) An apparatus for generating sprite data from at least one initial input image that comprises interlaced first and second fields, comprising:

first means for generating first field sprites with first motion parameter data for the first fields of the at least one input image; and

second means for generating second field sprites with second motion parameter data for the second fields of the at least one input image.

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